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Dear Ms. Dean,

Your message was forwarded to me to answer. State Law IC 14-22-34 prohibits the "take" of a state endangered species. Take is defined as: (1) harass, hunt, capture or kill; or (2) attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill wildlife.

Franklin's ground squirrel is a prairie species often associated with the grass or prairie right-of-ways along rail-lines. Often the last remnants of native prairie, a natural heritage treasure, are found along these rail-lines. Abandonment would not be detrimental to the ground squirrel. However, any development that would change the un-mowed, grassland, character of the rail-line or the right-of-way would likely be detrimental to the species.

Please contact the Natural Heritage Database - Division of Nature Preserves (317 232-4052) for information regarding the known occurrence of endangered species in your area of concern. If you need additional help please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Katie Smith

Catherine Gremillion-Smith, Ph.D.  
Chief Wildlife Diversity Section  
Endangered Species Coordinator  
402 W. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2781  
(317) 232-8160



"Pruett, Wendy"  
<WPruett@dnr.state.in.us>  
11/26/2003 11:55 AM

To "deanc@stb.dot.gov" <deanc@stb.dot.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject FW: Christa Dean inquiry

Ms. Dean:

I have attached a memo that was sent from our Wildlife Diversity Chief. This is in reference to your request earlier this week. Your request is below.

Thank you for your interest in the Department of Natural Resources.

Wendy Pruett  
Wildlife Diversity Secretary  
317-232-4085  
wpruett@dnr.state.in.us

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I work at the Surface Transportation Board and am working on a railline abandonment in Indiana. A state endangered species, the ground squirrel (*Spermophilus franklinii*), may be in the area. What does INstate law require in this situation?

thank you in advance,  
Christa Dean 202.565.1606

email: deanc@stb.dot.gov



Dean railline document.doc